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News Release

For Immediate Release: October 27, 2017

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OPA awarded funds for Drug Nuisance Abatement, Sex Assault Prosecution

LĪHU'E – Nearly \$250,000 in federal grant funds were awarded to the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney (OPA) to continue funding its Drug Nuisance Abatement Unit (DNAU) and Sex Assault Prosecution Unit (SAPU).

"We are very grateful to our federal and state partners, especially Attorney General Doug Chin and his team, for supporting our efforts to fight sexual abuse and close down drug houses on Kaua'i," stated Prosecuting Attorney Justin F. Kollar. "I am personally thankful for the hard work of our Grant Coordinator Jamie Olivas, for writing thorough grant applications and for developing a strong relationship of trust with our funding entities."

The awards were made from Hawai'i's Fiscal Year 2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Program. Each year, the U.S. Department of Justice allots a pool of funds to various states for their criminal justice programs. The grants are awarded via a competitive process after applications are evaluated by the Department of the Attorney General's Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, and the governor's Committee on Crime.

This year, there were more than \$2.2 million in applications for the approximately \$776,000 available statewide. The DNAU grant is for \$113,240 and it will continue to fund an investigator position and associated program costs. The SAPU grant is for \$135,285 and it will continue to fund a Deputy Prosecutor position and other associated program costs.

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